



GAIL FARBER, Director

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331

<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

August 19, 2014

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

25 August 19, 2014

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**FUNDING FOR SPECIAL STUDIES BETWEEN THE
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WATER RESEARCH PROJECT AUTHORITY
AND THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

This action is to authorize the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or her designee to negotiate and enter into agreements to fund the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project Authority to conduct stormwater-related scientific studies through the end of Fiscal Year 2016-17 for a total cost not-to-exceed \$3 million.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:

1. Find that the proposed actions in the recommendation below are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated in this letter and in the record of the project.
2. Authorize the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or her designee to negotiate and enter into agreements to fund the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project Authority to conduct stormwater-related scientific studies through the end of Fiscal Year 2016-17 for a total cost not-to-exceed \$3 million. Authorization will be limited to special studies that are designed to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements and/or obtain reasonable water quality standards.

3. Authorize the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or her designee to approve associated funding not-to-exceed \$3 million for the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project Authority to conduct stormwater-related scientific studies through the end of the Fiscal Year 2016-17.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommendations is to find that the recommended action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and to allow the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) or her designee to negotiate and enter into agreements with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project Authority (SCCWRP) to conduct stormwater-related scientific studies through the end of Fiscal Year 2016-17 for a total cost not-to-exceed \$3 million.

On March 5, 2013, the Board authorized the Chief Engineer of the LACFCD to enter into an agreement with SCCWRP to renew the LACFCD's status as an Associate Commission Member of SCCWRP's ten-member governing body for a period of four years between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2017.

The SCCWRP's long-term objectives are to conduct environmental research and assess the condition of Southern California's coastal environment. Should the requested authorizations be approved, the unincorporated communities of the County of Los Angeles (County), the LACFCD, and other County Departments would benefit from SCCWRP's research, which is recognized by the environmental community and regulatory agencies as credible and impartial due to the makeup of its governing board. Additionally, the authorization to approve the associated funding to conduct stormwater-related scientific studies will be limited to special studies that are regulatory requirements and/or designed to obtain reasonable water quality standards.

The LACFCD, the County, and other County Departments have been required to conduct studies to comply with the new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit and various Total Maximum Daily Load regulations.

As an Associate Commission Member, the LACFCD is able to influence SCCWRP's research agenda, which in turn has helped the LACFCD attain regulatory compliance and enhanced our understanding of stormwater quality issues and our ability to obtain more attainable water quality regulations for the County, LACFCD, and other County Departments.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provision of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1). Implementation of the recommended actions will provide the LACFCD with the ability to generate or provide scientific knowledge on stormwater and urban runoff management issues required for decision-making and policy formation and support timely delivery of public services.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Funds to cover current year special studies are available in the current Fiscal Year 2014-15 LACFCD budget.

Funding for subsequent Fiscal Years 2015-16 through 2016-17 will be requested through the annual budget process. However, the total amount of the project will not exceed \$3 million for the 3-year contract term.

SCCWRP will also be conducting stormwater-related scientific studies on behalf of the Unincorporated County and other County Departments. LACFCD will be reimbursed by the Unincorporated County and other County Departments for the requested work. Funding for subsequent Fiscal Years 2015-16 through 2016-17 will be requested through the annual budget process; however, the total amount will not exceed \$3 million.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

This authorization will allow the Chief Engineer of the LACFCD or her designee to negotiate and enter into agreements with SCCWRP to conduct and fund stormwater-related scientific studies through the end of Fiscal Year 2016-17. These agreements will be reviewed and approved by County Counsel prior to execution.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed authorization to negotiate and enter into funding agreements for special studies is exempt from the CEQA. These actions are within a class of projects that has been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that they meet the criteria of Section 15306 of the CEQA Guidelines and Class 6 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, dealing with data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities that will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. In addition, these activities will not occur in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the project record.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There is no adverse impact on current County services.

CONCLUSION

Please return three adopted copies of this letter to the Department of Public Works, Watershed Management Division.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

8/19/2014

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail Farber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

GAIL FARBER

Director

GF:ARG:ba

c: Chief Executive Office (Rita Robinson)
County Counsel
Executive Office